

## VAT fraud group disrupted - 8 persons detained

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As a result of joint operations by CBA officers and the Wielkopolska Customs and Fiscal Office, another criminal group defrauding on VAT was broken up.

Officers of the CBA Regional Office in Poznań, in cooperation with officers of the Wielkopolska Customs and Fiscal Office acting under the supervision of the Wielkopolska Local Division of the Department for Organized Crime and Corruption at the National Prosecutor's Office in Poznań, led to the breaking up of an organised criminal group which dealt with VAT fraud and money laundering.

The group extorted VAT based on fictitious invoices and unreliable domestic and intra-Community transactions carried out with the use of an established, interrelated network of companies that allegedly supplied each other with various types of goods and services. The purpose of this activity was to show the alleged costs of the business and thus reduce tax liabilities.

Furthermore, the criminal group also provided 'services' to various identified entrepreneurs by selling them fraudulent VAT invoices, which they then used to reduce their tax debts resulting from their businesses. At the current stage of the investigation, it has been confirmed there were issued unreliable VAT invoices with a total value of at least PLN 14,250,000.

According to the investigators, the group introduced into economic transactions funds originating from criminal offences for at least PLN 2,590,000.

In recent days, the officers of the CBA and the Wielkopolska Customs and Fiscal Office detained 8 persons. All the detainees have faced charges in the Prosecutor's Office. Three persons have been remanded in custody. Non-custodial preventive measures have been applied against the other detainees.

At the same time, over a dozen places of residence, business activities and accounting offices were searched.

CBA Press Team



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